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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES ON ITS SECOND SESSION, HELD AT GENEVA FROM 8 TO 19 JULY 1996

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I. DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

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* Part Two of this report is contained in document FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1.

I. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE
(Agenda items 1, 2 and 3)

A. Opening of the session
(Agenda item 1)

1. The second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, convened pursuant to Article 7.4 of the Convention and decision 21/CP.1,** was opened at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 8 July 1996, by the President of the Conference at its first session, Ms. Angela Merkel, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany. Welcoming all participants to the Conference, she indicated that the present session provided the Conference of the Parties with an opportunity to carry out an interim evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the progress made in the negotiation process initiated at the first session with the adoption of the Berlin Mandate. Pursuant to that Mandate, the Parties were called upon, *inter alia*, to negotiate a protocol or another legal instrument in order to strengthen the commitments of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) in Article 4.2(a) and (b) for adoption at the third session of the Conference of the Parties, and it was a matter of great concern that halfway through that process a convergence of views was not yet in sight. At the same time, recent scientific findings, as contained in the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), confirmed that the global climate was undergoing changes as a result of human activities and that it was increasingly urgent to take consistent precautionary action. In that regard, it was also a matter of great concern that the first national communications of Annex I Parties revealed that some of them currently expected to be unable to meet the emission reduction targets of the Convention to return their greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. While within the framework of the Berlin Mandate there was no question of introducing new commitments for developing countries, global climate protection could only be successful if action was taken on a worldwide level. The Conference of the Parties should therefore consider what joint action could be taken to advance the implementation of the existing commitments. As a necessary first step there was a need to decide on the guidelines for the national communications of Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties). Other practical approaches included increased cooperation between all Parties, particularly in the field of climate protection technologies, the pilot phase for activities implemented jointly and stronger involvement of the private sector.

2. In conclusion, she expressed the hope that the Conference of the Parties would make clear statements on the urgency of further action in the light of the IPCC findings, on further

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** For all decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, see document FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1.

efforts regarding the implementation of the existing Convention commitments and on the intensification of negotiations to flesh out the Berlin Mandate. A ministerial declaration in that vein would be an important signal of the Parties' joint willingness to take action. Progress had been made, but shared commitment, trust and close cooperation were still indispensable in face of the global challenges of climate protection and sustainable development.

B. Election of the President
(Agenda item 2)

3. At the 1st (opening) plenary meeting, on 8 July, on the proposal of the outgoing President, the Conference of the Parties elected by acclamation Mr. Chen Chimutengwende, Minister of Environment and Tourism of Zimbabwe, as its President.

4. On assuming office, the President welcomed all participants to the second session of the Conference of the Parties and paid tribute to the important contributions made by his predecessors in the negotiating process and at the first session of the Conference, and by the Convention secretariat. Describing the activities undertaken by his country in the field of environment and in the implementation of the Convention, he conveyed a message from the President of Zimbabwe, who was also Chairman of the World Solar Summit, expressing his best wishes for fruitful deliberations at the present session and the hope that the conclusions reached by the Conference of the Parties would prove a useful input into the World Solar Summit, to be held in Zimbabwe in September 1996.

5. Listing the main substantive issues before the Conference of the Parties at the present session, he emphasized the importance of the contributions made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Second Assessment Report and by the specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned. He suggested that the Conference of the Parties might wish to take the opportunity to request the IPCC to identify policy options that could be deemed to be appropriate in their own right, economically justifiable, sensitive to equity considerations and yet addressing environmental concerns. He also stressed the importance of encouraging initiatives by the business sector to develop and deliver environmentally sound and affordable technologies and to ensure their full global diffusion.

6. In seeking solutions to the problems to be addressed, the importance of equity considerations could not be over-emphasized. The developing countries were characterized by limited financial and technological resources, and limited human and institutional capacities. Many developing countries, notably in Africa, remained dependent on agro-based industry that was climate-sensitive and were faced with harsh economic conditions and a huge external debt burden. Their priorities were inevitably placed on such urgent matters as poverty alleviation, the improvement of social services and job creation through industrial expansion. They remained, therefore, the most vulnerable to the impacts of possible climate

change and variability. Moreover, for many of them, in particular the low-lying countries and small island States, the cost of adaptation measures was beyond their national capacities.

7. In conclusion, he urged all Parties to provide further impetus to the implementation of the Convention and to the strengthening of efforts to combat climate change, and to give their full support and cooperation to the Berlin Mandate process, with a view to the negotiation of a draft text during the period before the third session of the Conference of the Parties.

C. Opening statements
(Agenda item 3 (a))

8. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 8 July, opening statements were made by Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, who conveyed a message to the Conference from the Secretary-General of the United Nations; Mr. Claude Haegi, Councillor of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, speaking on behalf of the Geneva authorities; Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar, Executive Secretary of the Convention secretariat; Professor G.O.P. Obasi, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization; Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme; Professor Bert Bolin, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility; and Mr. Robert Priddle, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July, a further opening statement was made by Dr. Assad Kotaite, President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization. Summaries of these statements are contained in annex I below.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS
(Agenda item 4)

A. Status of ratification of the Convention, including declarations made under Article 4.2(g)
(Agenda item 4 (a))

9.For its consideration of this sub-item at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July, the Conference of the Parties had before it an information document on the status of ratification of the Convention (FCCC/CP/1996/INF.1). On the invitation of the President, the Conference of the Parties took note with satisfaction that 155 States and one regional economic integration organization were now Parties to the Convention; that two more States, namely the United Republic of Tanzania and Qatar, would become Parties before the closure of the session; and that one more State, Israel, had deposited its instrument of ratification and would become a Party in the month of August. The Conference of the Parties also took note of the fact that three Parties, namely, the Czech Republic, Monaco and Slovakia, had made a declaration to the Depositary, under Article 4.2(g) of the Convention, indicating that they intended to be bound by the provisions of Article 4.2(a) and (b) of the Convention.

10.The President further informed the Conference of the Parties that the Governments of the Czech Republic and Slovakia had also requested that the name of Czechoslovakia be deleted from Annex I to the Convention as that country had never been a Party to the Convention and no longer existed as a State entity, and that the names of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic be included in Annex I. The Convention secretariat was consulting on this matter with the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs. On the proposal of the President, the Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat to report in due course to the Parties to the Convention, through the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, on the results of its consultations with the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and on any action taken in that regard by the Depositary of the Convention.

B. Adoption of the rules of procedure
(Agenda item 4 (b))

11. At the 1st (opening) plenary meeting, on 8 July, the outgoing President reported on the outcome of the series of informal consultations that she had held on the draft rules of procedure since the first session of the Conference of the Parties. She informed the Conference that, in spite of the efforts made by all participants, it had not proved possible to arrive at a final solution, and she urged all delegations to consider the issue further and work towards an agreement.

12. For its consideration of this sub-item at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July, the Conference had before it the draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies (FCCC/CP/1996/2). The President proposed that, in view of the report by the outgoing President, consideration of the sub-item should be postponed to give time for further consultations. After some discussion, he ruled that the draft rules of procedure as contained in document FCCC/CP/1996/2 should continue to be applied, with the exception of rule 42.

13. At the 9th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the President, reporting to the Conference of the Parties on the outcome of his consultations, said that a large number of Parties favoured some form of majority ruling for substantive decisions and for the adoption of a protocol, and that in that regard a three-fourths majority vote would appear to be acceptable to many. However, those Parties still maintained differing positions with regard to decisions relating to the financial mechanism: some preferred consensus, while others suggested a double majority of Parties, including those included in Annex II to the Convention (Annex II Parties); yet others had suggested a four-fifths majority of all Parties. At the same time, a small number of Parties had expressed their preference for all decisions, including those relating to substance, the financial mechanism and the adoption of a protocol, to be taken by consensus. As yet, therefore, no consensus had emerged on the draft rules. It was his intention to carry out further consultations during the inter-sessional period with a view to enabling the Conference of the Parties to adopt its rules of procedure at the outset of its third session.

14. At the same meeting, the representative of Saudi Arabia, speaking also on behalf of Bahrain, Indonesia, Lebanon, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela, said that those countries objected to the application of the draft rules of procedure in the absence of any agreement on draft rules 22 and 42. They had provided the President with draft texts reflecting their positions on those two rules.

C. Adoption of the agenda
(Agenda item 4 (c))

15. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July, the Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Conference.

2. Election of the President.

3. Statements:

   (a) Statements at the opening of the session;
   (b) Other statements.

4. Organizational matters:

   (a) Status of ratification of the Convention, including declarations made under Article 4.2(g);
   (b) Adoption of the rules of procedure;
   (c) Adoption of the agenda;
   (d) Election of officers other than the President;
   (e) Admission of organizations as observers;
   (f) Organization of work;
   (g) Calendar of meetings of Convention bodies 1996-1997;
   (h) Date and venue of the third session of the Conference of the Parties;
   (i) Adoption of the report on credentials.

5. Review of the implementation of the Convention and of decisions of the first session of the Conference of the Parties, including:

   (a) Commitments in Article 4;
   (b) The Berlin Mandate process: taking stock and intensifying efforts;
   (c) Development and transfer of technologies (Article 4.1(c) and 4.5);
   (d) Activities implemented jointly: annual review of progress under the pilot phase.

6. Decisions to promote the effective implementation of the Convention:

   (a) Communications by Parties:

      (i) Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, schedule and process for consideration;
      (ii) Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, facilitation and process for consideration;

   (b) Financial mechanism:

      (i) Guidance to the Global Environment Facility;
      (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility.

7. Reports of other subsidiary bodies: action on conclusions and guidance on future work:

   (a) Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice;
   (b) Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation;
   (c) Report of the Ad Hoc Group on Article 13.

8. Administrative and financial matters:

   (a) Establishment of the permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning;
   (b) Income and budget performance, and resource deployment for 1997.

9. Other matters.

10. Conclusion of the session:

   (a) Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session;
   (b) Closure of the session.

D. Election of officers other than the President

(Agenda item 4 (d))

16. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July, on the proposal of the President, the Conference of the Parties elected Mr. Mohamed M. Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania) as Chairman of the

Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Mr. Tibor Faragó (Hungary) as Chairman of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), both for a second term of office. The Conference also noted that the Chairman and other officers of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM), and the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group on Article 13 (AG13), would continue in office for a second term. At the same meeting, it was agreed that the election of the seven Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur of the Conference, and of the officers other than the Chairmen of SBI, SBSTA and AG13, should be postponed pending further consultations on outstanding issues.

17. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 10 July, on the proposal of the President, the Conference of the Parties elected by acclamation seven Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur of the Conference. The Bureau of the Conference was thus constituted as follows:

President

Mr. Chen Chimutengwende (Zimbabwe)

Vice-Presidents

Mr. John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda)
Mr. Anthony Clarke (Canada)
Mr. René Castro Hernández (Costa Rica)
Ms. Cornelia Quennet-Thielen (Germany)
Mr. Abbas A. Naqi (Kuwait)
Mr. Alexander I. Bedritsky (Russian Federation)
Mr. Tuiloma Neroni Slade (Samoa)

Chairman of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Mr. Mohammed M. Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania)

Chairman of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Mr. Tibor Faragó (Hungary)

Rapporteur

Mr. Antonio G. M. La Viña (Philippines)

18. At the 9th plenary meeting, on 19 July, Mr. Raúl Estrada-Oyuela (Argentina), Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate, reported to the Conference of the Parties that, after consultations that he had conducted at the request of the President, it had not proved possible to reach agreement on the election of the Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteurs

of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Ad Hoc Group on Article 13. It was his intention, however, to conduct further consultations, in the very near future, with a view to allowing the respective subsidiary bodies to elect those officers at their sessions in December 1996.

E. Admission of organizations as observers
(Agenda item 4 (e))

19. For its consideration of this sub-item at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July, the Conference of the Parties had before it a note by the secretariat (FCCC/CP/1996/3). In addition to those organizations already admitted at COP 1, the Conference of the Parties, on the invitation of the President, decided to accord observer status to one intergovernmental organization, the Central American Commission on the Environment and Development, Guatemala City, Guatemala, and the following 36 non-governmental organizations listed in the annex to document FCCC/CP/1996/3:

1. Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Institute, Arlington, USA
2. American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), Washington D.C., USA
3. Association pour un développement durable, Nouakchott, Mauritania
4. Atmosphere Action Network in East Asia (AANEA), Seoul, Korea
5. Australian Aluminium Council, Manuka, Australia
6. Business Council of Australia, Canberra, Australia
7. Centre for Energy, Environment, Science and Technology (CEEST), Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
8. Center for International and European Environmental Research (ecologic), Berlin, Germany
9. Climate Change Association of the Insurance Industry in Support of the UNEP Initiative, Köln, Germany
10. Comisión Interparlamentaria Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (CICAD), Panama City, Panama
11. Energy 21, Boulogne, France
12. Energy Efficiency Center (SEVEn), Prague, Czech Republic
13. European Business Council For a Sustainable Energy Future, Velp, Netherlands
14. European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT Environment Watchdog Group) Brussels, Belgium
15. European Wind Energy Association, Hemel Hempstead, UK
16. Foundation Joint Implementation Network, Groningen, Netherlands
17. Global Dynamics Institute, Rome, Italy
18. International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN), Geneva, Switzerland
19. International Institute for Energy Conservation (IIEC)-Europe, London, UK
20. International Institute for Energy Conservation (IIEC), Washington, D.C., USA
21. Japan Federation of Economic Organizations, Tokyo, Japan

22. NGO Liaison Forum on Environment and Sustainable Development of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC, Geneva, Switzerland
23. Organization for Industrial Spiritual and Cultural Advancement-International, Tokyo, Japan (OISCA-International)
24. Ozone Action, Washington, D.C., USA
25. Palestinian Institute for Arid Land and Environmental Studies, Hebron, Palestine
26. Peoples' Forum 2001, Tokyo, Japan
27. Réseau Action Climat France (RACF), Paris, France
28. Sierra Club of Canada, Ottawa, Canada
29. Solar Electric Light Fund, Washington, D.C., USA
30. Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth), Penang, Malaysia
31. Southern Center for Energy and Environment, Harare, Zimbabwe
32. The Energy Conservation Center, Tokyo, Japan
33. The Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Lysaker, Norway
34. The Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association (JEMA), Tokyo, Japan
35. The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Gland, Switzerland
36. University of the Pacific, Stockton, USA.

F. Organization of work

(Agenda item 4 (f))

20. The Conference of the Parties took up this sub-item at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July, at which the Executive Secretary made an introductory statement on the question of documentation. He informed the Conference that the large volume of documentation for Convention bodies had been remarked upon by the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) of the United Nations when considering the arrangements for funding conference servicing for the Convention from the regular programme budget of the United Nations. In that context, he wished to point out that a significant part of the documentation produced by the secretariat arose from the communication and review process and was thus required by commitments under the Convention and the related procedures established by the Conference of the Parties. Secondly, a large portion of the pages submitted to intergovernmental bodies consisted of comments by Parties on various topics, the length of which was outside the control of the secretariat. Lastly, the volume of documentation was evidently connected with the frequency of meetings, and one way to reduce the volume of documentation would be to reduce the number of sessions of the subsidiary bodies. He wished to suggest the possibility of envisaging that the subsidiary bodies other than the AGBM should not meet concurrently with the third session of the Conference of the Parties, thus making it possible to spread the load of documentation more evenly throughout 1997 and ensuring that recommendations from the subsidiary bodies would be available well in advance of the Conference.

21. On the proposal of the President, the Conference of the Parties, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July, decided:

(a) To remit the question of documentation for Convention bodies to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) for its consideration;

(b) To refer sub-item 5 (b) on the Berlin Mandate process to the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM), requesting it to submit draft conclusions on the Group's future work, including the calendar and organization of the negotiating process up to the third session of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) To refer sub-items 5 (c) on development and transfer of technologies and 5 (d) on activities implemented jointly to both the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the SBI, requesting the Chairmen of the two bodies to propose to the Bureau a coordinated or integrated approach for the consideration of those topics by the two bodies, including with respect to their proposed work programmes;

(d) To refer sub-item 6 (a) on communications by Parties to both the SBSTA and the SBI; with regard to sub-item 6 (a) (i) on communications from Annex I Parties, requesting the SBSTA to consider possible revisions to the guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Annex I Parties and to recommend a course of action, and requesting the SBI to consider the schedule for submission of second national communications and the process for consideration of those communications, including the organization of a future review process; with regard to sub-item 6 (a) (ii) on communications from non-Annex I Parties, requesting the SBSTA to consider the question of guidelines and the SBI to deal with facilitation and the process for consideration of communications; it being understood that the SBSTA and the SBI might consider submitting consolidated recommendations on each particular sub-item for action by the Conference of the Parties;

(e) To refer sub-item 6 (b) on the financial mechanism to the SBI, requesting it to make appropriate recommendations for action by the Conference of the Parties on the questions of guidance to the Global Environment Facility and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;

(f) To refer item 8 on administrative and financial matters to the SBI, requesting it to provide the Conference of the Parties with specific guidance on matters relating to the Convention secretariat and the arrangements for its functioning, as well as to the Convention budget in terms of income and budget performance, and resource deployment for 1997.

22. With regard to the ministerial segment of the session, the Conference, at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 10 July, agreed with the President's suggestion that three plenary meetings and an informal round table should be held during that segment, that Ministers and other heads of delegations of Parties should make statements under agenda item 5, and that the time limit for statements during the ministerial segment should be set at five minutes. The informal round table to be convened by the President would be chaired by

Ms. Ruth Dreifuss, Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of the Interior of Switzerland.

23. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 12 July, on the proposal of the President, the Conference of the Parties decided to refer sub-item 5 (a) on commitments in Article 4 to the SBI, requesting it to submit an appropriate recommendation to the Conference of the Parties.

24. At the same meeting, the Conference of the Parties further decided that the question of the division of labour between the SBI and the SBSTA should be taken up by the Conference of the Parties at its third session on the basis of recommendations made to it by the Chairmen of the two subsidiary bodies.

G. Calendar of meetings of Convention bodies 1996-1997

(Agenda item 4 (g))

25. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties, noting the recommendation of the Bureau that the SBSTA, the SBI and the Ad Hoc Group on Article 13 should not meet concurrently with the third session of the Conference of the Parties, agreed to a calendar of meetings proposed by the Executive Secretary on the basis of discussions in the Bureau. The Conference also agreed that the Bureau would keep the calendar under review. For the calendar of meetings, see Part Two, section III, of this report.

H. Date and venue of the third session of the Conference of the Parties

(Agenda item 4 (h))

26. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties, having considered a proposal submitted by the President, adopted decision 1/CP.2 on the date and venue of the third session of the Conference of the Parties, accepting the offer of the Government of Japan to act as host. For the text of the decision, see Part Two, section I, of the present report.

27. On the adoption of the decision, a statement was made by Mr. Sukio Iwadare, Minister of State and Director-General of the Environment Agency of Japan.

I. Adoption of the report on credentials

(Agenda item 4 (i))

28. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties took note of the report of the Bureau on the credentials of the representatives of Parties to the second session of the Conference of the Parties (FCCC/CP/1996/4), as orally amended by the Executive Secretary.

J. Attendance

29. The second session of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent sessions of the subsidiary bodies were attended by representatives of the following 147 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:

Albania
Algeria
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Comoros
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Denmark
Djibouti
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Eritrea
Estonia
Ethiopia
European Community
Fiji
Finland
France
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Kiribati
Kuwait
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Niue
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland

Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Samoa
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Slovakia
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkmenistan
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

30. The session was also attended by observers from the following 14 States not Parties to the Convention:

Dominican Republic
Gabon
Haiti
Holy See
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Israel
Madagascar
Singapore
South Africa
Swaziland
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Turkey
Ukraine

31. The following United Nations offices and programmes were represented:

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
United Nations Non-Governmental Liason Service (NGLS)
Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES/UNEP)
International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

32. The following specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were represented:

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO/IOC)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

World Bank
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
Global Environment Facility of the World Bank/UNDP/UNEP (GEF)
WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
World Trade Organization (WTO)

33. For a list of the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attending the second session of the Conference of the Parties, see annex V below.

K. Documentation

34. The documents before the Conference of the Parties at its second session are listed in annex VI below.

III. GENERAL STATEMENTS
(Agenda item 3 (b))

35. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 12 July, statements were made by the following observer States: Iran, South Africa and Turkey.

36. Statements were made under this item by the representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July, and by the representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) at the 4th plenary meeting, on 12 July.

37. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 12 July, statements were also made by the representative of one intergovernmental organization, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Business Council for a Sustainable Energy Future, Climate Action Network, Climate Action Network-South East Asia, the International Chamber of Commerce (speaking on behalf of business/industry non-governmental organizations represented at the Conference), the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners of the United States of America, and the World Council of Churches.

IV. REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND OF DECISIONS OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

(Agenda item 5)

38. At the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th plenary meetings, on 17, 18 and 19 July, statements were made under this item by 99 ministers and other heads of delegation of Parties. For a list of the 99 ministers and heads of delegation who made statements under this item, see annex II below.

39. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 18 July, Ms. Ruth Dreifuss, Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of the Interior of Switzerland, in her capacity as Chairperson of the informal round table on "Climate change: new scientific findings and opportunities for action", held during the ministerial segment, summarized the discussions in the round table. For the text of her summary, see annex III below.

40. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 18 July, the President introduced the text of a Ministerial Declaration that had emerged from consultations with a representative group of "Friends of the President" chaired by Mr. S. Marchi, Minister of the Environment of Canada. The text was presented in the name of the ministers and other heads of delegation present at the second session of the Conference of the Parties. In introducing the text, the President stated that the Declaration gave rise to some concern or difficulties for some delegations, in some cases because they felt that the text went too far and in others because they felt that it did not go far enough. The text as a whole, however, commanded a very wide consensus among ministers and other heads of delegation attending the Conference.

41. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 18 July, on the proposal of the President, the Conference of the Parties took note of the Ministerial Declaration and agreed that it should be annexed to the report of the Conference. For the text of the Declaration, see the annex to Part Two of this report.

42. In that connection, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, the United States of America, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia (speaking also on behalf of the following Parties: Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela and Yemen, and of one observer State, the Islamic Republic of Iran) and Ireland (speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States). For the texts of these statements, see annex IV below.

43. At the same meeting, the representative of Ghana said that, while generally endorsing the text of the Declaration, his country could not accept the wording of paragraph 6 regarding the fulfilment of commitments by Annex I Parties.

44. At the 9th plenary meeting, on 19 July, further statements in connection with the Ministerial Declaration were made by the representatives of Venezuela, the Russian Federation and Samoa (speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States). For the texts of these statements, see annex IV below.

45. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the representative of Germany, the Conference of the Parties decided, by acclamation, that the Declaration should be known as the Geneva Ministerial Declaration.

46. At the 8th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties had before it under this item a summary by the Chairman of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the discussions on the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including a draft decision containing two alternative paragraphs in square brackets on which it had not proved possible to reach a consensus (FCCC/CP/1996/L.11). The Conference heard a report from the Chairman of the SBSTA who suggested that a possible solution would be to delete both of the alternative texts in square brackets since the resulting decision would still recognize the great value of the Second Assessment Report of the IPCC for the Conference of the Parties. He also referred to the Geneva Ministerial Declaration. The Conference, on the proposal of the President, endorsed the suggestion made by the Chairman of the SBSTA and adopted decision 6/CP.2 on the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. For the text of the decision, see Part Two, section I, of this report.

47. On the adoption of decision 6/CP.2, the representative of the Marshall Islands, referring to the two alternative paragraphs that had been deleted, said that the first option represented the majority view among the Parties to the Convention. It was only with the utmost reluctance and reservation that he had been able to accept the compromise of deleting both alternatives.

48. The representative of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, warmly welcomed the conclusion in decision 6/CP.2 that the Second Assessment Report of the IPCC was the most comprehensive and authoritative assessment of the science of climate change. The European Community and its member Sates believed consensus should also have been reached on the use of the Second Assessment Report and strongly endorsed it as the basis for urgent action to further the implementation of the Convention and to negotiate a protocol or another legal instrument. They also wished to express their wholehearted support for the continuing work of the IPCC and its use by the bodies of the Convention.

49. The representative of Saudi Arabia said that he preferred the second of the two alternatives but could support the compromise solution of deleting them both. In his view, the question of how to judge the Second Assessment Report should be left to each subsidiary body.

50. The representative of Samoa, speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said that while AOSIS accepted decision 6/CP.2 it nevertheless believed that the Second Assessment Report should be used as a basis for urgent action to further the implementation of the Convention and for developing a protocol or other legal instrument, as provided for in the Berlin Mandate.

A. Commitments in Article 4

(Agenda item 5 (a))

51. This sub-item was referred to the SBI by the Conference of the Parties at its 4th plenary meeting, on 12 July (see para. 23 above). At its 8th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties, having heard a report from the Chairman of the SBI, took note that the Subsidiary Body for Implementation would take up the item again at a future session.

B. The Berlin Mandate process: taking stock and intensifying efforts

(Agenda item 5 (b))

52. This sub-item was referred to the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM) by the Conference of the Parties at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July (see para. 21 (b) above). At the 8th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate reported to the Conference of the Parties on the work of the Ad Hoc Group. The AGBM had met four times since the first session of the Conference of the Parties and, in line with its mandate, had focused on the analysis and assessment of the different options available to Parties on both quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives (QELROs) and policies and measures. The focus of the AGBM's work would, however, now move progressively towards negotiation.

53. The Chairman reported that the AGBM had convened informal workshops at its third session, and round tables at its fourth, on QELROs and on policies and measures. A further round table at the fourth session had dealt with the possible impacts on developing countries of new commitments to be negotiated for Annex I Parties. The Chairman noted that those more informal meetings had facilitated useful and constructive discussion.

54. Referring to the programme of work of the Group up to the third session of the Conference of the Parties, the Chairman indicated that Parties had been requested to submit further concrete proposals by 15 October 1996. With the assistance of the Convention secretariat, he had undertaken to produce a synthesis of all proposals received up to that date as a contribution to the fifth session of the AGBM in December 1996. He expressed the hope that such a synthesis would provide a constructive framework for discussion at the fifth session of the Group and would be a major step towards the development of a negotiating text.

55. At the same meeting, the Conference of the Parties took note with appreciation of the reports of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate on the work of its first, second and third sessions (FCCC/AGBM/1995/2 and Corr.1, FCCC/AGBM/1995/7 and Corr.1, and FCCC/AGBM/1996/5), together with the oral report of the Chairman on the work of its fourth session, and requested it to continue its work in line with its mandate and in as expeditious a manner as possible.

C. Development and transfer of technologies (Article 4.1(c) and 4.5)

(Agenda item 5 (c))

56. This sub-item was referred to both the SBSTA and the SBI by the Conference of the Parties at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July (see para. 21 (c) above). At its 8th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties, on the recommendation of the SBSTA and the SBI, adopted decision 7/CP.2 on development and transfer of technologies. For the text of the decision, see Part Two, section I, of this report.

D. Activities implemented jointly: review of progress under the pilot phase

(Agenda item 5 (d))

57. This sub-item was referred to both the SBSTA and the SBI by the Conference of the Parties at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July (see para. 21 (c) above). At its 8th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties, on the recommendation of the SBSTA and the SBI, adopted decision 8/CP.2 on activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase. For the text of the decision, see Part Two, section I, of this report. For conclusions adopted by the SBSTA on this sub-item, see FCCC/SBSTA/1996/13, para. 38.

V. DECISIONS TO PROMOTE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

(Agenda item 6)

A. Communications by Parties

(Agenda item 6 (a))

(i) Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, schedule and process for consideration

58. This sub-item was referred to both the SBSTA and the SBI by the Conference of the Parties at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July, the former being requested to consider possible

revisions to the guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Annex I Parties and to recommend a course of action, and the latter being requested to consider the schedule for submission of second national communications and the process for consideration of those communications, including the organization of a future review process (see para. 21 (d) above). At its 8th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties, on the recommendation of the SBSTA and the SBI, adopted decision 9/CP.2 on communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, schedule and process for consideration. For the text of the decision, see Part Two, section I, of this report. For conclusions adopted by the SBI on this sub-item, see FCCC/SBI/1996/12, para. 14.

(ii) Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, facilitation and process for consideration

59. This sub-item was referred to both the SBSTA and the SBI by the Conference of the Parties at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July, the former being requested to consider the question of guidelines and the latter being requested to deal with facilitation and the process for consideration of communications (see para. 21 (d) above). At its 8th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties, on the recommendation of the SBSTA and the SBI, adopted decision 10/CP.2 on communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, facilitation and process for consideration. For the text of the decision, see Part Two, section I, of this report.

B. Financial mechanism
(Agenda item 6 (b))

(i) Guidance to the Global Environment Facility

60. This sub-item was referred to the SBI by the Conference of the Parties at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July (see para. 21 (e) above). At its 8th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties, on the recommendation of the SBI, adopted decision 11/CP.2 on guidance to the Global Environment Facility. For the text of the decision, see Part Two, section I, of this report.

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility

61. This sub-item was referred to the SBI by the Conference of the Parties at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July (see para. 21 (e) above). At its 8th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties, pursuant to decision 2/SBI.1, adopted decision 12/CP.2 on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility, by which it adopted the Memorandum of Understanding. At the same meeting, the Conference of the Parties, on the recommendation of the SBI, adopted decision 13/CP.2 on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility: annex on the determination

of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention, by which it referred the text of the annex to the SBI for further consideration. For the texts of these decisions, see Part Two, section I, of this report.

VI. REPORTS OF OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES: ACTION ON CONCLUSIONS AND GUIDANCE ON FUTURE WORK

(Agenda item 7)

A. Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

(Agenda item 7 (a))

62. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July, the Conference of the Parties, having heard a report from the Chairman of the SBSTA on the question of the establishment of intergovernmental technical advisory panel(s) (ITAPs), decided, on the proposal of the President, to request the SBSTA to revert to the question of the establishment of ITAPs, at a future session, to be specified, in the light of any experience gained from the operation of any roster of experts.

63. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties, having heard a report on the work of the SBSTA from its Chairman, took note with appreciation of the reports of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on the work of its first and second sessions (FCCC/SBSTA/1995/3 and FCCC/SBSTA/1996/8), together with the oral report of the Chairman on the work of its third session, and requested it to continue its work in line with its mandate.

B. Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

(Agenda item 7 (b))

64. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties, having heard a report on the work of the SBI from its Chairman, took note with appreciation of the reports of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on the work of its first and second sessions (FCCC/SBI/1995/5 and Corr.1 and FCCC/SBI/1996/9), together with the oral report of the Chairman on the work of its third session, and requested it to continue its work in line with its mandate. On the recommendation of the SBI, the Conference of the Parties also adopted decision 2/CP.2 on the programme of work of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, 1996-1997, and decision 3/CP.2 on secretariat activities relating to technical and financial support to Parties. For the texts of these decisions, see Part Two, section I, of this report.

C. Report of the Ad Hoc Group on Article 13
(Agenda item 7 (c))

65. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties, having heard a report on the work of the Ad Hoc Group on Article 13 from its Chairman, took note with appreciation of the reports of the Ad Hoc Group on Article 13 on the work of its first and second sessions (FCCC/AG13/1995/2 and FCCC/AG13/1996/2) and requested it to continue its work in line with its mandate. On the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Group on Article 13, the Conference of the Parties also adopted decision 4/CP.2 on the future work of the Ad Hoc Group on Article 13, and decision 5/CP.2 on linkage between the Ad Hoc Group on Article 13 and the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate. For the texts of these decisions, see Part Two, section I, of this report.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS
(Agenda item 8)

A. Establishment of the permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning
(Agenda item 8 (a))

66. This sub-item was referred to the SBI by the Conference of the Parties at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July (see para. 21 (f) above). At its 8th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties, on the recommendation of the SBI, adopted decision 14/CP.2 on establishment of the permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning, and decision 15/CP.2 on the Agreement concerning the headquarters of the Convention secretariat. For the texts of these decisions, see Part Two, section I, of this report.

67. In connection with decision 15/CP.2, attention was drawn to a statement made by the Executive Secretary to the SBI on that subject (see FCCC/SBI/1996/12, paras. 45 and 46).

B. Income and budget performance, and resource deployment for 1997
(Agenda item 8 (b))

68. This sub-item, together with the question of documentation, was referred to the SBI by the Conference of the Parties at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July (see para. 21 (a) and (f) above). At its 8th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties, on the recommendation of the SBI, adopted decision 16/CP.2 on income and budget performance, and resource deployment for 1997, and decision 17/CP.2 on volume of documentation. For the texts of these decisions, see Part Two, section I, of this report.

VIII. OTHER MATTERS
(Agenda item 9)

69. Under this item the Conference, at its 4th plenary meeting, on 12 July, took up the question of the invitation to the Conference of the Parties by the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/113, to provide an input to its special session on Agenda 21. On the invitation of the President, the Conference of the Parties decided to request the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to consider this matter at its fifth session, in February 1997, and to provide an input to the special session of the General Assembly on behalf of the Conference of the Parties. It further requested the Convention secretariat to submit a brief report to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, to facilitate its work on an input to the General Assembly.

70. A statement was made under this item by the representative of a Party.

IX. CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION
(Agenda item 10)

A. Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session
(Agenda item 10 (a))

71. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft report on its second session (FCCC/CP/1996/L.10), authorizing the Rapporteur, with the assistance of the Convention secretariat, to complete the report, as appropriate.

B. Closure of the session
(Agenda item 10 (b))

72. At the 9th plenary meeting, on 19 July, the Conference of the Parties, having considered a draft resolution submitted by the President (FCCC/CP/1996/L.6), adopted resolution 1/CP.2 entitled "Expression of gratitude to the Government of Switzerland". For the text of the resolution, see Part Two, section II, of this report.

73. On the adoption of resolution 1/CP.2, a statement was made by the representative of Switzerland.

74. Closing statements were made by the representatives of Costa Rica (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), El Salvador (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Ireland (on behalf of the European Community and its member States), Slovenia (on behalf of the Eastern European States), the United States of America and the Russian Federation. A statement was made by the Executive Secretary.

75. The President, after making a closing statement in which he thanked all participants for their constructive cooperation, declared the second session of the Conference of the Parties closed.

Annex I

Summaries of opening statements (Agenda item 3(a))

1. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 8 July, a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations was conveyed to the Conference of the Parties by Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. In that message the Secretary-General said that the fact that the Convention now had 159 ratifications and that the Parties were diligently moving forward to strengthen their earlier commitments constituted significant progress towards global climate security. The challenge facing the Parties to the Convention was to find new ways of involving the whole of the international community in its effective implementation. While industrialized countries needed to take the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, developing countries could also contribute to that process, particularly through increased energy efficiency, provided however that they were given greater financial assistance in order to strengthen their scientific, technological and institutional capacities, and greater access to the best available technologies. In view of the linkage between climate change and other sectors, there was a need to ensure the coordination and integration of the activities of intergovernmental organizations and United Nations bodies, to explore the possibility of new partnerships and joint ventures, and to encourage the participation of the private sector and of environmental organizations and others at the grass roots level. Referring to the request by the General Assembly for an input to the special session on Agenda 21, he suggested that the Conference of the Parties might consider making that contribution in four priority areas: the need for improved energy efficiency; the importance of promoting the use of sustainable and environmentally sound renewable energy sources; the need for increased research by Governments and the private sector into energy and material efficiency and more environmentally sound production technologies; and arrangements that might foster links between energy and sustainable development within the United Nations system.

2. Elaborating on the message he had delivered on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Desai emphasized the close links between implementation of the Convention and the follow-up processes to Agenda 21 and the Rio principles. In June 1997 there was to be a special session of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the Rio commitments, and later in that year there would be the very important third session of the Conference of the Parties. It was his hope that the preparatory processes of those two major political events would interact and reinforce one another as had happened in the preparatory processes leading to the negotiation of the Convention and the negotiation of Agenda 21 and the Rio principles. What was needed from both processes was a reaffirmation of the political commitment which was so visible and obvious to the world in 1992, but which was not always so visible and obvious today. There was also a need to impart a sense of urgency to the achievement of changes in patterns of production and consumption, ways of

thought and modes of behaviour, in order to ensure a more secure planet for the present and future generations. That was the challenge facing both the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Conference of the Parties. Both had a great responsibility which had to be fulfilled with a full sense of urgency and commitment.

3. Mr. Claude Haegi, Councillor of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, speaking on behalf of the Geneva authorities, welcomed all the participants to the city of Geneva. He recalled that the first climate conference under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization, and many other important meetings on the subject, had been held in that city, and he pledged the willingness of the Geneva authorities to host future meetings if so requested by the Conference of the Parties. He said that climate change was one of the most complex issues ever addressed by scientists, involving philosophical and ethical considerations of the role of man in the context of nature as a whole. It was clear from the findings of the IPCC that man was involved in climate change and that climate change posed major problems at the international level. In meeting the challenge of preserving a sustainable environment for future generations, nothing could be dealt with in isolation. What was needed was a new social contract, making man, the environment and the economy inseparable. Enumerating a series of activities undertaken by the Geneva authorities to meet environmental concerns, he emphasized the moral responsibility of decision makers to safeguard the environment. He recalled the words of the prophet Mohammed that the world was green and good and had been given by God to men for keeping, and added that everyone must understand that in the end the challenge was indeed that of life.

4. Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar, Executive Secretary of the Convention secretariat, welcoming all participants to the second session of the Conference of the Parties, expressed his gratitude to the outgoing President for the part she had played in advancing the Convention process and for the work of her Ministry in supporting the transition of the Convention secretariat to its new headquarters in Bonn. He also expressed his gratitude to the authorities of the Swiss Federation and of the Republic and Canton of Geneva for all they had done in providing the Convention secretariat with a supportive working environment in the city of Geneva. Reviewing the present situation in regard to the implementation of the Convention, he emphasized that commitments entered into had to be seen to be implemented in order to be credible, and that only credible commitments provided a sound foundation on which to develop and strengthen the Convention. Public awareness and public support were essential for the achievement of the aims of the Convention. He called on UNEP to be the standard bearer of Article 6, as WMO was the champion of Article 5. The present session of the Conference provided an opportunity for taking stock, for reviewing the implementation of the Convention and for taking decisions to keep the machine turning productively. It was his hope that, in addition, the ministerial segment would provide an opportunity to focus on the future of the Convention and to give political impetus to the negotiating phase of the Berlin Mandate.

5. Professor G.O.P. Obasi, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, said that the most significant development since the first session of the Conference of the Parties

was the finding by the IPCC that there was "a discernible human influence on global climate". The time for debate was over and the onus was on the Parties to the Convention to take decisive action. First, there was a pressing need to complete negotiations on the stabilization of carbon dioxide emissions at a level that would reverse the present trend within a reasonably specified time-frame. Secondly, it was in his view important that the subsidiary bodies of the Convention should continue to provide a solid scientific and technical basis for deliberations by the Parties to the Convention. WMO will continue to provide annual statements on the State of the Global Climate. Thirdly, there was a continuing need to ensure the reinforcement of national capabilities to provide high-quality and continuous series of data and, in this connection, he appealed to all Parties to increase their support for climate monitoring, research, impact studies and climate services, pursuant to Article 4.1(g) and Article 5 of the Convention. In this regard, WMO will consider any request to coordinate the necessary international long-term monitoring and climate research programmes. Fourthly, there was the continuing need for special consideration of assistance to developing countries and those with economies in transition to enable them to limit their future emissions, through the development and transfer of technology, as well as through the provision of adequate financial support. In conclusion, he urged all Parties to encourage the establishment or strengthening of national climate committees, as well as national and regional action plans for climate change, in support of the Climate Agenda, an inter-agency initiative to establish an integrated framework for international climate-related scientific and technical programmes, and reaffirmed WMO's strong commitment to fully support the Convention and its implementation process.

6. Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Proramme, said that the IPCC, in the conclusions reached in its Second Assessment Report, had been forthright and clear in its message to the world. The implications were equally clear: all further anthropogenic emissions of radiatively-active gases needed to be regarded as deliberate acts of pollution which governments were ethically bound to control within limits that would not allow dangerous interference with the climate system. Eventually, the IPCC would be able to define those limits, but in the meantime a precautionary approach had to be followed. The time had come to set meaningful targets for emission reduction, including as soon as possible a global emission cap, and a timetable for its achievement. To that end, the voluntary participation of developing countries in emission reduction measures was essential. For that purpose, those countries had to be given prompt and unfettered access to international financial mechanisms and appropriate technology free of political conditionality, involving new and additional resources to those presently available for development aid. The industrialized countries, for their part, needed to give a clear lead by agreeing to reduce their carbon emissions post-2000 to the very limit of their capacity to do so. There were a number of opportunities for action: improvements in integrated and sustainable resource management; greater coordination and dialogue between existing structures at the international, regional and national levels to ensure rationality in atmospheric protection measures and actions that protect the environment; the engagement of the private sector and civil society; the use of market and non-market instruments to promote efficient energy end-use; and activities

implemented jointly. She also responded positively to the proposal by the Executive Secretary that UNEP should lead the way on the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention. UNEP was a willing and committed partner in that process but, in the last analysis, the choice of what to do lay squarely with the Parties to the Convention.

7. Professor Bert Bolin, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, referring to the paragraph in the Summary for Policy Makers in the Second Assessment Report of the IPCC in which it was stated that "the balance of evidence suggests that there is a discernible human influence on global climate", said that the paragraph in question had been agreed upon after an extensive discussion and very careful consideration by governments, in view of the importance of the key finding for policy makers. While uncertainties in the projection of regional changes of climate obviously represented a major difficulty for any country to judge the threat that a climate change might pose to itself and thus its position in international negotiations on policies and measures, there was a wealth of information in the Report regarding the sensitivity and vulnerability of ecosystems and socio-economic systems to potential climate change. The technical papers currently under preparation in the IPCC in order to assist the Parties to the Convention would include one on policies and measures, as well as one containing possible stabilization scenarios consistent with Article 2 of the Convention, and one on the environmental implications of emissions limitations. While the reception of the Second Assessment Report had been generally positive, objections had been raised to some of its conclusions and the IPCC had been criticised by one or two non-governmental organizations for not having followed agreed procedures in its work, a criticism which he rejected. The IPCC welcomed critical comments based on careful scientific and technical analyses, but many of the objections raised had already been considered in the IPCC process and rejected because of inadequate scientific bases. Other activities being undertaken in IPCC included a revision of the IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and in that connection he wished to stress that the IPCC would not pursue revisions of the Guidelines for their own sake, but only when requested by governments or when warranted by new information or observational data. In conclusion, he observed that the question most frequently asked by the public as well as policy makers concerned the potential spatial distribution of global climate change. In an attempt to see how that question might be answered in the future, a workshop on the subject was to be held in London in September 1996. This workshop was a first early step in the preparations for producing the Third Assessment Report by the year 2000.

8. Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility, highlighting the main developments and activities in the GEF since the first session of the Conference of the Parties, pointed first of all to the dramatic growth in the membership of GEF. As of June 1996, there were 156 country Participants in the GEF as compared with 27 at the beginning of the pilot phase. For the period February 1995 to April 1996, the GEF Council had approved GEF funding of US$215.2 million for climate change activities. Since the pilot phase, GEF funding, together with an additional US$2.6 billion leveraged from multilateral, bilateral and other sources of financing, amounted to total project financing of over US$ 3 billion in the climate change area. For the current

fiscal year, the three implementing agencies (UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank) were planning to prepare GEF projects in the climate change area requiring between US$150 million and 185 million. The GEF Operational Strategy, which made clear that the GEF was not to finance activities in the area of climate change that did not fully conform to the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, had been adopted by the GEF Council in October 1995. That Strategy provided for three categories of operational activities: enabling activities; operational programmes encompassing long-term measures; and short-term response measures. The GEF had collaborated with the Convention secretariat in preparing a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the GEF, and a draft annex on the determination of funding necessary and available for implementation of the Convention. The Memorandum of Understanding, including the annex, had been approved by the GEF Council. Lastly, the GEF Council, at its last meeting, had approved a GEF policy on public involvement in GEF-financed projects. In conclusion, he welcomed the close and cooperative relationship that existed between the Convention secretariat and the GEF secretariat and expressed the hope that the Conference of the Parties would consider taking the necessary steps to give definitive status to the GEF as the operating entity of the financial mechanism.

9. Mr. Robert Priddle, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA), said that the IEA was deeply involved in the Convention process because energy was a major part of the climate change problem and hence needed to be a major part of the solution to that problem. International cooperation on energy matters increasingly involved cooperation on global environmental issues, especially greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Describing the inputs already made by IEA to the Convention process, he said the IEA ministers had reaffirmed their political commitment to the goals of the Convention and to the aim expressed in the Berlin Mandate. It was particularly important, in light of the experience gained since the adoption of the Convention, that the commitments set for time-frames beyond the year 2000 should be realistically attainable. Describing the key underlying factors in the energy sector which governed the scope for action on greenhouse gas emissions, he emphasized the need to ensure that policy decisions were taken in full awareness of the implications for energy use and resulting emissions. The long time-scale for infrastructural change needed to be matched by long-scale commitments to change and long-scale policy instruments, including energy technology research and development. The fact that the world's economy was at present highly geared to the use of fossil fuels did not mean there was no theoretical economic potential for action that would achieve substantial reductions in energy use and related emissions. There was, however, a need to face up to the distinction not only between what was technically possible and what was economically reasonable, but also between what was economically reasonable and what was commercially and politically possible. In conclusion, he outlined a number of opportunities for action and emphasized the need for all market participants to work together to arrive at cost-effective solutions that were viable in the real world.

10. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July, Dr. Assad Kotaite, President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), describing the work undertaken by ICAO on the question of aircraft emissions, said that the focus of attention had recently changed, with the emergence of new environmental problems of a global nature, including climate change, to which aircraft emissions might be contributing. ICAO, in attempting to address those issues, was considering, *inter alia*, the role of possible technological improvements, through improved engine design; operational measures designed specifically to reduce the amount of fuel consumed or to reduce the impacts of emissions; increased use of environmental charges; and a review of ICAO's existing tax policies to take into account the environmental impact of aviation. The Council of ICAO had, in May 1996, confirmed its willingness to cooperate with the Conference of the Parties and, recognizing the need for more reliable scientific information, expressed its support for the preparation of a special report on aviation by the IPCC. In conclusion, he emphasized that, in order to achieve closer cooperation between the Conference of the Parties and ICAO, there needed to be closer liaison at the national level between the government departments concerned. It was important that each State ensured that the views it expressed in the Conference of the Parties and in ICAO were broadly consistent.

Annex II

Statements by ministers and by other heads of delegation of Parties during the ministerial segment of the second session of the Conference of the Parties: list of speakers

		Plenary meeting
Albania	Mr. Lirim Selfo Chairman, Committee of Environmental Protection	7
Argentina	Ms. Maria Julia Alsogaray Secretary of Natural and Human Environment	6
Armenia	Mr. Aram Gabrielian Head, Department for Protection of the Atmosphere, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	8
Australia	Senator Robert Hill Minister of the Environment	5
Austria	Mr. Martin Bartenstein Federal Minister for the Environment	7
Bangladesh	Mr. Abdul Latif Mondal Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests	7
Benin	Mr. Sahidou Dango-Nadey Minister of the Environment	7
Belgium	Mr. Herman Merckx Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations in Geneva	7
Bhutan	Mr. Dasho Paljor J. Dorji Deputy Minister, National Environment Commission	7

		Plenary meeting
Bolivia	Mr. Jorge Lena Patiño Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations in Geneva	8
Botswana[a]	Ms. Margaret Nasha Assistant Minister of Local Government, Lands and Housing	7
Brazil	Dr. José Israel Vargas Minister of Science and Technology	7
Bulgaria	Mr. Yontcho Pelovski Deputy Minister of Environment	6
Burkina Faso	Mr. Jean-Baptiste Kambou Technical Adviser, Ministry of Environment and Water	7
Canada	Mr. Sergio Marchi Minister of the Environment	5
Central African Republic	Mr. Lambert Gnapelet Head, Implementation, Evaluation and Planning, Ministry of Environment and Tourism	7
Chad	Mr. Abdallah Nassour Mahamat-Ali Ambassador of Chad to France	7
China	Mr. Li Zhaoxin Vice-Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	5
Colombia	Mr. Ernesto Guhl Vice-Minister of the Environment	6

[a] The statement was delivered on behalf of the Assistant Minister by a member of the Botswana delegation.

		Plenary meeting
Costa Rica[b]	Mr. Manuel B. Dengo Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations in Geneva	5
Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Albert Kakou Tiapani Minister of Housing, Quality of Life and the Environment	6
Cuba	Dr. Fabio Fajardo Moros President, Environment Agency	7
Czech Republic	Mr. Vladimir Novotny First Vice-Minister of the Environment	7
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Mr. Han Chang On Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations in Geneva	7
Denmark	Mr. Svend Auken Minister for the Environment and Energy	5
Egypt	Dr. Magda Shahin Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations in Geneva	7
El Salvador	Mr. Alexander Kravetz Ambassador and Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations in Geneva	8
Ethiopia	Mr. Abdilrashed Dulane Vice-Minister, Ministry of Water Resources	7
European Community	Ms. Ritt Bjerregaard Commissioner for the Environment	6

[b] Speaking also on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

		Plenary meeting
Finland	Ms. Sirkka Hautojärvi Secretary General, Ministry of the Environment	7
France[c]	Ms. Corinne Lepage Minister of the Environment	6
Gambia	Mr. Musa Mbenga Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources	7
Georgia	Mr. Nikoloz Beradze Chairman, Hydrometeorology Department	7
Germany	Dr. Angela Merkel Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	5
Ghana	Mr. Sam P. Yalley Deputy Minister of Environment, Science and Technology	5
Greece[d]	Ms. Elissavet Papazoe Deputy Minister of Environment	6
Guatemala[e]	Dr. Luis Flores Asturias Vice-President of the Republic of Guatemala	5
Honduras	Ms. Becky Myton Scientific Adviser to the Minister of Environment	8

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[c] The statement was delivered on behalf of the Minister by Mr. Pierre Chemillier, President, Interministerial Mission on Greenhouse Gas Effects.

[d] The statement was delivered on behalf of the Deputy Minister by Prof. Dimitri Lalas, Adviser, Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.

[e] Speaking also on behalf of the Central American countries of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

		Plenary meeting
Hungary	Dr. Katalin Szili Parliamentary State Secretary, Ministry for Environment and Regional Development	6
Iceland	Mr. Tryggvi Felixson Chief, International Division, Ministry for the Environment	7
India	Mr. Vijai Sharma Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests	7
Indonesia	Mr. Sarwono Kusumaatmadja Minister of the Environment	5
Ireland[f]	Mr. Brendan Howlin Minister of the Environment	5
Italy	Mr. Valerio Calzolaio Vice-Minister for the Environment	6
Japan	Mr. Sukio Iwadare Minister of State, Director-General, Environment Agency	5
	Mr. Noboru Endo Vice-Minister, Ministry of International Trade and Industry	5
Jordan	Dr. Abdelrazaq Tobaishat Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment	7
Kenya[g]	Mr. John K. Sambu Minister for Environment and Natural Resources	6

[f] Speaking also on behalf of the European Community and its member States.

[g] Speaking also on behalf of the Group of African States Parties to the Convention.

		Plenary meeting
Kiribati	Mr. Timbo Kearíki Minister of Environment and Social Development	6
Kuwait	Mr. Dharar a. R. Razzooqi Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations in Geneva	7
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Prof. Souli Nanthavong Minister, President of the Science, Technology and Environment Organization	7
Lithuania	Mr. Rapolas Liuzinas Deputy Minister of Environment	6
Malaysia	Dato' Abu Bakar Daud Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Environment	6
Maldives	Mr. Abdullahi Majeed Executive Director, Department of Meteorology	7
Marshall Islands	Mr. Atbi Riklon Deputy Attorney-General	7
Mauritius	Mr. Samioullah Lauthan Minister of the Environment and Quality of Life	7
Mexico	Mr. Antonio de Icaza Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in Geneva	7
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Mr. Epel K. Ilon Deputy Secretary, Department of External Affairs	7

		Plenary meeting
Morocco	Mr. Mohamed Bentaja Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations in Geneva	8
Nepal	Mr. Shambu Ram Simkhada Chargé d'Affaires, Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations in Geneva	8
Netherlands	Ms. Margaretha de Boer Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment	5
New Zealand	Mr. Simon Upton Minister for the Environment	6
Nigeria	Chief Dan L. Etete Minister of Petroleum	6
Niue	Mr. Terry Coe Minister of Finance, Post and Telecommunications and Meteorology, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Public Works Department	7
Norway	Mr. Bernt Bull State Secretary, Ministry of Environment	6
Pakistan	Ms. Kahkeshan Azhar Acting Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in Geneva	7
Panama	Mr. Rolando Guillen National Director, National Institute of Renewable Natural Resources	7
Peru	Mr. José Urrutia Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations in Geneva	7

		Plenary meeting
Philippines	Mr. Antonio G. M. La Viña Under-Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources	7
Poland	Mr. Stanislaw Zelichowski Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry	5
Portugal	Ms. Elisa Ferreira Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources	5
Republic of Korea	Mr. Joun Yung Sun Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Represntative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations in Geneva	7
Republic of Moldova	Mr. Sergiu Fandofan Director, State Department for the Protection of Environment and Natural Resources	7
Romania	Mr. Ioan Jelev Secretary of State, Department of Environment, Ministry of Water, Forests and Environmental Protection	6
Russian Federation	Dr. Iuri Izrael Academician and Director, Institute for Global Climate and Ecology	7
Samoa[h]	Mr. Tuiloma Neroni Slade Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Independent State of Western Samoa to the United Nations in New York	5

[h] Speaking also on behalf of the 31 Parties to the Convention that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States.

		Plenary meeting
Saudi Arabia	Dr. Abdulbar Al-Gain Head, Meteorological and Environmental Protection Administration	7
Senegal	Ms. Absa Claude Diallo Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations in Geneva	6
Slovenia	Mr. Radovan Tavzes State Secretary of Environment and Regional Planning	7
Spain	Mr. Raimundo Pérez-Hernandez y Torra Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations in Geneva	6
Sri Lanka	Ms. Srimani Athulathmudali Minister of Transport, Environment and Women's Affairs	7
Sudan	Mr. Fadlalla Elkhidir Elsayem Deputy Director, Hydrometeorology Authority	8
Sweden	Ms. Anna Lindh Minister for the Department of the Environment	5
Switzerland	Ms. Ruth Dreifuss Federal Councillor and Head, Federal Department of the Interior	5
Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Abdul-Hamid Al Munajjed Minister of State for Environmental Affairs	7
Thailand	Mr. Krit Garnjarna-Goonchorn Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations in Geneva	7
Tunisia	Mr. Jaafar Friaa Director, Ministry of Environment and Land Use	6

		Plenary meeting
Turkmenistan	Mr. A. M. Durdiev Acting Director, Turkmenglavhydromet	8
Uganda	Mr. Nathan Irumba Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations in Geneva	8
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. John Gummer Secretary of State for the Environment	5
United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Alli Mchumo Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations in Geneva	8
United States of America	Mr. Timothy Wirth Under-Secretary of State for Global Affairs	5
Uruguay	Mr. Juan Antonio Chiruchi Minister of Housing, Land Settlement and Enviroment	6
Uzbekistan	Mr. Victor E. Chub Minister, Chief of the Main Administration of Hydrometeorology at the Cabinet of Ministers (Glavgidromet)	6
Venezuela	Dr. Erwin Arrieta Minister of Energy and Mines	7
Vietnam	Mr. Nguyen Duc Ngu Director General, Hydrometeorology Service	7
Zambia	Mr. Patrick Sinyinza Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations in Geneva	7
Zaire	Mr. Raymond Tshibanda N'thungamulongo Minister of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Tourism	7

		Plenary meeting
Zimbabwe	Mr. July G. Moyo Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Tourism	7

Annex III

MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE

Climate change: new scientific findings and opportunities for action

**Summary by the Chairperson, Ms. Ruth Dreifuss,
Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department
of the Interior of Switzerland**

I have the pleasure to present to you my personal impressions of the discussions, in which a great number of ministers participated actively.

The first question addressed by the round table concerned the new scientific findings contained in the Second Assessment Report of the IPCC and its consequences for political action.

I would like to thank Professor Bert Bolin for his excellent presentation of the essential elements of the Second Assessment Report. The participants in the round table recognized the outstanding work of more than 2,500 scientists from all over the world; they agreed that the Second Assessment Report provides important scientific elements to be considered when taking decisions in the area of climate change.

Many ministers noted with concern the conclusion of this report that the balance of evidence suggests that there is a discernible human influence on global climate. They stressed that these findings, also taking into account the precautionary principle, underline the need for urgent action at the widest possible level. I am therefore in a position to confirm that a very large majority of the Parties endorses the conclusions of the Second Assessment Report and intends to use them as the basis for political action.

It seems, however, important to note, in this context, that we should not ask the IPCC to answer questions which are not of a scientific, but of a political nature, as for example the determination of the critical level of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere above which a dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system would occur.

Furthermore, ministers stressed the adverse social and economic impacts of climate change. In several countries extreme weather conditions, desertification and drought are perceived as visible effects of climate change, affecting particularly the important agricultural sector.

Small island States as well as African countries stated with concern their particular vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and the lack of technical and financial resources for prevention and adaptation measures. The Global Environment Facility should also play its role in enabling developing countries to meet their commitments.

The second question addressed the efforts needed to advance the existing commitments under the Convention.

Ministers reiterated that developed countries have to take the lead in combating climate change, taking into account the common but differentiated responsibilities of Parties. They considered it important that Annex I Parties reaffirm their existing commitments under the Convention and that many of them strengthen their efforts to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000.

Measures taken in this regard are strongly influenced by different national circumstances. This was made clear when several of my colleagues gave us examples of their national policies. However, the identification of the obstacles we are facing is also part of our efforts to implement effective policies in the area of climate change. Furthermore, there is an urgent need for closer collaboration between the different ministries dealing with questions related to climate change.

In order to support developing countries in implementing the Convention, industrialized countries should furthermore undertake specific efforts to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and to provide financial support.

Some oil-exporting countries voiced their concern that measures taken by Annex I Parties in order to reduce consumption of fossil fuels might adversely effect their economies. One answer to their concern lies in reevaluating and developing new uses of petroleum products.

Finally, the round table addressed the process towards strengthening commitments of Annex I Parties (the Berlin Mandate).

The ministers of Annex I Parties confirmed their will to accelerate negotiations under the Berlin Mandate so as to have a protocol or other legal instrument adopted at the third session of the Conference of the Parties in 1997 in Kyoto. They stressed that a clear signal should be given by the Conference of the Parties at its present session to start negotiating concrete text proposals in the next session of the AGBM.

Furthermore, numerous participants expressed their wish to adopt a ministerial declaration reflecting the outcome of this Conference.

In concluding, Mr. President, I would like to congratulate all participants in the round table and thank them for their willingness to discuss frankly the essential questions we are facing in the framework of the Climate Convention. Our gathering has given us the chance to better understand each other's positions and concerns and has thus helped us to build common ground for the implementation and further development of the Convention.

Annex IV

Statements made in connection with the Geneva Ministerial Declaration

A. Statement made by the delegation of Australia

Australia has been a strong supporter of the development and implementation of the Convention since negotiations commenced. We remain committed to the Berlin Mandate, the negotiating process it has launched and to a successful outcome at the Conference in Kyoto next year.

We worked hard with others of our colleagues last evening in order to assist you, Mr. President, in bringing before us today a declaration. Our aim is to provide the impetus needed to take our negotiation forward through the next series of meetings to that successful outcome in Kyoto.

We contributed to and endorse almost all that is in the statement we have before us today. We have a difficulty, however, with that aspect of the text which commits the Parties to include in the final instrument legally binding targets without the nature and context of those commitments being clear. In our opinion, the text before us goes further than our negotiating process has so far taken us. It is COP 3 in Kyoto not COP 2 where we believe this critical issue needs to be decided.

It is with regret, Mr. President, that I must inform you that Australia cannot associate itself with the language on targets in paragraph 8 of the draft text.

Mr. President I must stress that Australia is firmly committed to continuing to work with all countries for an environmentally effective and fair outcome under the Berlin Mandate.

B. Statement made by the delegation of the United States of America

The United States of America would like to whole-heartedly endorse this excellent declaration. In our view, this declaration makes three critical points:

- First, we must move forward on the basis of the new and compelling scientific evidence;

- Second, next steps should focus on legally-binding targets; and

3 - Third, the process needs to move forward rapidly to complete its critical work by COP 3 in Japan next year.

We would also like to add one point that was not specified in the declaration. We believe, and we made clear yesterday, that our negotiated outcome must ensure maximum national flexibility for all Parties to implement their medium-term, legally-binding commitments. We also need to continue working towards a longer term concentration goal. To this end, we believe the inclusion of activities implemented jointly on a global basis, and international emissions trading must be part of any future regime. We believe these views are fully reflected in the language of this admirable declaration.

C. Statement made by the delegation of New Zealand

The text we have before us sends a strong message that politically we are committed to working together to address the threat of climate change.

New Zealand welcomes that and will continue to play an active role in this important work.

In my statement earlier today, I said very clearly that while Parties had to do their fair share of emissions reductions, a way had to be found to reduce the disparity in abatement costs between countries. A global least-cost approach should be adopted that would be efficient and equitable. That is the only way to achieve real progress.

In the light of this, New Zealand has difficulty with the wording of the second star of the first tiret of paragraph eight concerning targets. Our support for this formula must be justified by our view that it can only be advanced on the basis of a least-cost approach within Annex I.

As a more general comment, I suggest that we should avoid prematurely narrowing the options for the status of the objectives to be produced by the Berlin Mandate process.

D. Statement made by the delegation of Saudi Arabia

The delegations of the following Parties: Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela and Yemen, and of one observer State, the Islamic Republic of Iran, formally object to adoption or approval or acceptance of the draft Ministerial Declaration, dated 18 July 1996, for the following reasons:

Lack of opportunity for the Conference of the Parties to discuss the draft Ministerial Declaration;

Failure of the draft Ministerial Declaration to reflect the views of many Parties as stated by them at the second session of the Conference of the Parties, with the result that the draft Ministerial Declaration reflects only some of the views that exist among the Parties to the Convention;

Non-objective characterization and selective reference to only some of the information in the IPCC Second Assessment Report, with the result that the draft Ministerial Declaration is biased and misleading; and

Failure to adhere to the customary procedures of United Nations bodies in the absence of adoption of rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties.

E. Statement made by the delegation of Ireland

Ireland, on behalf of the European Community and its member States, confirms its full and unequivocal support for the Ministerial Declaration.

The European Union stands ready to take the urgent action necessary to respond to the challenge of climate change called for in the Ministerial Declaration.

F. Statement made by the delegation of Venezuela

The delegation of Venezuela does not support the draft Ministerial Declaration because, in its view, its content and scope do not reflect the outcome of the discussions in a balanced and objective manner.

The text contains a number of statements and affirmations which have an economic and social impact whose consequences we are far from being able to judge. Although progress has been made in scientific knowledge, scientific uncertainties remain and these uncertainties do not provide a sufficient basis for taking political decisions.

Venezuela is concerned to ensure that the process of discussion and agreement should be widely-based and transparent, and reserves its position on the Ministerial Declaration.

G. Statement made by the delegation of the Russian Federation

In addition to the statement issued by the group of countries on 18 July, including the Russian Federation[1], we would like to note that one of the main reasons for our position is the absence, in the draft Ministerial Declaration, of the opinion of a number of States on the IPCC Report. According to this opinion, the IPCC Report does not provide estimates of dangerous levels of GHG concentration in the atmosphere. This fact is an obstacle to the complete use of the Report for achieving the main goal of the Convention (Article 2).

H. Statement made by the delegation of Samoa

Mr. President, we see in the Ministerial Declaration a statement by and of the political leadership of the international community. It is a statement which is addressed to, and which needs to be registered with, all fellow-humans, in and beyond these halls. The statement is about a very serious global situation and one which the AOSIS countries consider as fairly reflecting the nature of the problem and the implications for us all. Of particular importance is the underscoring of the urgency which we all acknowledged in Berlin last year.

The Ministerial Declaration is not agreed with in all aspects. Clearly, it makes no claim to unanimity, but, in our judgement, it meets with the approval of most of the Parties. Its very existence attests to this fact. Fundamentally, we accept the Ministerial Declaration for what it is: a declaration of determination to give force and direction to the Berlin Mandate.

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[1] See section D above.

Annex V

List of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attending the second session of the Conference of the Parties

I. Intergovernmental organizations

1. Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique (ACCT)
2. Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee
3. International Energy Agency (IEA)
4. International Institute of Refrigeration
5. League of Arab States
6. Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC)
7. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
8. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
9. South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

II. Non-governmental organizations

1. Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute, Arlington, United States of America
2. Alliance for Responsible Atmospheric Policy, Arlington, United States of America
3. Alliance for Responsible Environmental Alternatives (AREA), Ottawa, Canada
4. American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), Washington D.C., United States of America
5. Association Française du Froid /Alliance Froid, Climatisation, Environnement (AFF/AFCE), Paris, France
6. Association pour un développement durable, Nouakchott, Mauritania
7. Atmosphere Action Network in East Asia (AANEA), Seoul, Korea
8. Australian Aluminium Council, Manuka, Australia
9. Berne Declaration, Zurich, Switzerland
10. Business Council for a Sustainable Energy Future, Washington D.C., United States of America
11. Business Council of Australia, Canberra, Australia
12. Canadian Electrical Association, Ottawa, Canada
13. Center for Clean Air Policy, Washington D.C., United States of America
14. Center for Energy, Environment, Science and Technology (CEEST), Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
15. Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI), Tokyo, Japan
16. Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations, Geneva, Switzerland
17. Centre for Business and the Environment, London, United Kingdom
18. Centre for International Climate and Energy Research (CICERO), Oslo, Norway

19. Centre for International and European Environmental Research (ecologic), Berlin, Germany
20. Cercle Mondial du Consensus/World Sustainable Energy Coalition (CMDC/WSEC), Zurich, Switzerland
21. Citizens Alliance for Saving the Atmosphere and the Earth (CASA), Kyoto, Japan
22. Climate Action Network Latin America (CANLA), Santiago, Chile
23. Climate Action Network-Southeast Asia (CAN-SEA), Quezon City, Philippines
24. Climate Action Network UK, London, United Kingdom
25. Climate Change Association of the Insurance Industry in Support of the UNEP Initiative, Köln, Germany
26. Climate Institute, Washington D.C., United States of America
27. Climate Network Africa, Nairobi, Kenya
28. Climate Network Europe, Brussels, Belgium
29. Earth Council, San José, Costa Rica
30. Edison Electric Institute (EEI), Washington D.C., United States of America
31. Energy 21, Boulogne, France
32. Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Washington D.C., United States of America
33. European Business Council for a Sustainable Energy Future, Velp, Netherlands
34. European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT), Brussels, Belgium
35. European Wind Energy Association, Hemel Hempstead, United Kingdom
36. Federal Association of the German Industry (BDI), Köln, Germany
37. Forschungszentrum (Research Centre), Jülich, Germany
38. Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD), London, United Kingdom
39. Foundation Joint Implementation Network (JIN), Groningen, Netherlands
40. Free University, Berlin, Germany
41. Friends of the Earth International, Amsterdam, Netherlands
42. German Advisory Council on Global Change, Bremerhaven, Germany
43. German NGO-Forum on Environment and Development, Bonn, Germany
44. Germanwatch, Bonn, Germany
45. Global Climate Coalition, Washington D.C., United States of America
46. Global Commons Institute, London, United Kingdom
47. Global Industrial and Social Progress Research Institute (GISPRI), Tokyo, Japan
48. Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE), Brussels, Belgium
49. Greenpeace International, Amsterdam, Netherlands
50. Hamburg Institute for Economic Research, Hamburg, Germany
51. Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), Taiwan, Province of China
52. Institut de recherche sur l'environnement (IREC), La Roche-sur-Foron, France
53. Institute for Environmental Studies, Free University Amsterdam (IES), Amsterdam, Netherlands
54. International Academy of the Environment (IAE), Geneva, Switzerland
55. International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Paris, France

56. International Climate Change Partnership, Arlington, United States of America
57. International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Brussels, Belgium
58. International Council of Women, Paris, France
59. International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), Toronto, Canada
60. International Council of Environmental Law (CIDE), Bonn, Germany
61. International Doctors for the Environment, Swiss Section, Basel, Switzerland
62. International Federation of Industrial Energy Consumers (IFIEC), Geneva, Switzerland
63. International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Laxenburg, Austria
64. International Institute for Energy Conservation (IIEC) - Europe, London, United Kingdom
65. International Institute for Energy Conservation (IIEC), Washington D.C., United States of America
66. International Network for Environmental Management (INEM), Holstein, Germany
67. International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), London, United Kingdom
68. International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN), Geneva, Switzerland
69. Japan Federation of Economic Organizations, Tokyo, Japan
70. Japan Industrial Conference for Ozone Layer Protection, Tokyo, Japan
71. London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom
72. National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), Washington D.C., United States of America
73. National Coal Association, Washington D.C., United States of America
74. Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Washington D.C., United States of America
75. Natural Resource Users' Group (NRUG), Wellington, New Zealand
76. New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), Tokyo, Japan
77. Organisation Internationale de Constructeurs d'Automobile (OICA), Paris, France
78. Peoples' Forum 2001, Tokyo, Japan
79. Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Potsdam, Germany
80. ProClim - Forum for Climate and Global Change, Berne, Switzerland
81. RainForest ReGeneration Institute, Washington D.C., United States of America
82. SEVEn7 - Energy Efficiency Center, Prague, Czech Republic
83. Solar Electric Light Fund, Washington D.C., United States of America
84. Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Stockholm, Sweden
85. Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi, India
86. The Climate Council, Washington D.C., United States of America
87. The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, United States of America
88. The Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA), London, United Kingdom
89. The Skies Above Foundation, Victoria, Canada
90. The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Gland, Switzerland
91. Union Internationale des Producteurs et Distributeurs d'Energie Electrique (UNIPEDE), Paris, France

92. Union of Concerned Scientists, Washington D.C., United States of America
93. United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), Washington D.C., United States of America
94. University of Keele, Department of International Relations, Staffordshire, United Kingdom
95. University of the Pacific, Stockton, United States of America
96. University of Wyoming, International Studies Association, Cheyenne, United States of America
97. US Climate Action Network (CAN-USA), Washington D.C., United States of America
98. Verification Technology Information Centre (VERTIC), London, United Kingdom
99. Woods Hole Research Center, Woods Hole, United States of America
100. World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), Geneva, Switzerland
101. World Coal Institute (WCI), London, United Kingdom
102. World Council of Churches (WCC), Geneva, Switzerland
103. World Energy Council, London, United Kingdom
104. World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), Geneva, Switzerland
105. World Resources Institute (WRI), Washington D.C., United States of America
106. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Gland, Switzerland
107. Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, Wuppertal, Germany

Annex VI

List of documents before the Conference of the Parties at its second session

FCCC/CP/1996/1	Provisional agenda and annotations, including suggestions for the organization of work
FCCC/CP/1996/1/Add.1	Ministerial round table
FCCC/CP/1996/1/Add.2	List of documents for the second session of the Conference of the Parties and concurrent sessions of subsidiary bodies
FCCC/CP/1996/2	Adoption of the rules of procedure
FCCC/CP/1996/3	Admission of organizations as observers
FCCC/CP/1996/4	Credentials of the representatives of Parties to the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Report of the Bureau
FCCC/CP/1996/5 FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Rev.1	Consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
FCCC/CP/1996/5/Add.1 FCCC/SBSTA/1996/5/Add.1/Rev.1	Consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The science of climate change: contribution of Working Group I of the IPCC
FCCC/CP/1996/5/Add.2 FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Add.2/Rev.1	Consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Scientific-technical analyses of impacts, adaptations, and mitigation of climate change: contribution of Working Group II of the IPCC
FCCC/CP/1996/5/Add.3 FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Add.3/Rev.1	Consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The economic and social dimensions of climate change: contribution of Working Group III of the IPCC

FCCC/CP/1996/6	Establishment of the permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: implementation of decision 14/CP.1 on the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations and related administrative matters
FCCC/CP/1996/6/Add.1	Establishment of the permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: legal arrangements for the effective discharge of the functions of the Convention secretariat in the Federal Republic of Germany
FCCC/CP/1996/6/Add.2	Establishment of the permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: relocation of the Convention secretariat to Bonn and possible liaison arrangements
FCCC/CP/1996/6/Add.3	Establishment of the permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: levels of remuneration of senior posts and appointment of the Executive Secretary
FCCC/CP/1996/7 and Add.1	Financial performance of UNFCCC: contributions and expenditures in 1996, and forecast for the biennium 1996-1997
FCCC/CP/1996/8	Financial mechanism: report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties
FCCC/CP/1996/9	Financial mechanism: draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility. Annex on the determination of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention

FCCC/CP/1996/10 FCCC/SBSTA/1996/12	Consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. IPCC Second Assessment synthesis of scientific-technical information relevant to interpreting Article 2 of the UNFCCC and summaries for policymakers of Working Groups I, II, and III of the IPCC
FCCC/CP/1996/11	Development and transfer of technologies (Article 4.1(c) and 4.5): follow-up report on technological issues
FCCC/CP/1996/12	Commitments in Article 4. Second compilation and synthesis of first national communications from Annex I Parties: executive summary
FCCC/CP/1996/12/Add.1	Commitments in Article 4. Second compilation and synthesis of first national communications from Annex I Parties: report
FCCC/CP/1996/12/Add.2	Commitments in Article 4. Second compilation and synthesis of first national communications from Annex I Parties: tables of inventories of anthropogenic emissions and removals and projections for 2000
FCCC/CP/1996/13	Communications by Parties: process for review and schedule for submission of national communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention
FCCC/CP/1996/14 and Add.1	Activities implemented jointly: annual review of progress under the pilot phase. Progress report on activities implemented jointly
FCCC/CP/1996/MISC.1	Establishment of the permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: legal arrangements for the effective discharge of the functions of the Convention secretariat in the Federal Republic of Germany
FCCC/CP/1996/MISC.2	Provisional list of participants

FCCC/CP/1996/INF.1	Status of ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
FCCC/CP/1996/INF.2	List of participants
FCCC/CP/1996/L.1	Report of the Ad Hoc Group on Article 13. Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Group on Article 13. Future work of the Ad Hoc Group on Article 13
FCCC/CP/1996/L.2	Administrative and financial matters. Establishment of the Permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning. Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation
FCCC/CP/1996/L.3	Administrative and financial matters. Income and budget performance, and resource deployment for 1997. Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation
FCCC/CP/1996/L.4	Reports of other Subsidiary Bodies: action on conclusions and guidance on future work. Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation. Recommendation of the Subsidiary for Implementation. Programme of work 1996-1997
FCCC/CP/1996/L.5	Reports of other Subsidiary Bodies: action on conclusions and guidance on future work. Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation. Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation. Secretariat activities relating to technical and financial support to Parties
FCCC/CP/1996/L.6	Closure of the session. Expression of gratitude to the Government of Switzerland. Draft resolution submitted by the President

FCCC/CP/1996/L.7	Review of the implementation of the Convention and of decisions of the first session of the Conference of the Parties. Activities implemented jointly: annual review of progress under the pilot phase. Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
FCCC/CP/1996/L.8	Administrative and financial matters. Income and budget performance, and resource deployment for 1997. Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation. Volume of documentation
FCCC/CP/1996/L.9	Decisions to promote the effective implementation of the Convention. Financial mechanism. Guidance to the Global Environment Facility. Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation
FCCC/CP/1996/L.10	Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session. Draft report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session
FCCC/CP/1996/L.11	Review of the implementation of the Convention and of decisions of the first session of the Conference of the Parties. Second assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). SBSTA Chairman's summary of discussion and draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its second session
FCCC/CP/1996/L.12	Decisions to promote the effective implementation of the Convention. Communications by Parties. Communications from Parties not included in Annex I: guidelines, facilitation and process for consideration. Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

FCCC/CP/1996/L.13	Decisions to promote the effective implementation of the Convention. Communications by Parties. Communications from Annex I Parties: guidelines, schedule and process for consideration. Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation
FCCC/CP/1996/L.13/Add.1	Decisions to promote the effective implementation of the Convention. Communications by Parties. Communications from Annex I Parties: guidelines, schedule and process for consideration. Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation. Addendum
FCCC/CP/1996/L.14	Administrative and financial matters. Establishment of the Permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning. Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation. Agreement concerning the Headquarters of the Convention secretariat
FCCC/CP/1996/L.15	Organizational matters. Date and venue of the third session of the Conference of the Parties. Draft decision submitted by the President
FCCC/CP/1996/L.16	Review of the implementation of the Convention and of decisions of the first session of the Conference of the Parties. Development and transfer of technologies (Articles 4.1(c) and 4.5). Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation
FCCC/CP/1996/L.17	Review of the implementation of the Convention and of decisions of the first session of the Conference of the Parties. Ministerial declaration

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